

The specimens of *D. ocellata*, so determined by von Pelzeln, before me are marked male and female, and differ from each other in the general smaller dimensions and shorter bill of the female. These examples cannot be separated from *D. weddelli* Lafres., with the types of which I have compared them.

If therefore these specimens from von Pelzeln have been compared with Spix's type and found identical, then Lafresnaye's species must become a synonym of *D. ocellata*, but if not, then I am still in doubt as to what *D. ocellata* really is. If Spix's type is still in existence, this point could be easily settled by the Continental ornithologists.

A single example of *D. spixi*, and which agrees fairly well with Spix's description and figure, shows that this species is very nearly related to *D. guttatoides* Lafres., but differs in much more slender bill, generally smaller dimensions, and different coloration on the back and under parts, with, however, the same character of spots. It may be described as follows: Top of head and back of neck brownish black, each feather with a central, pale buff, tear-shaped spot, more elongated on the neck. Back, yellow-olivaceous-brown with broad, central, buff stripes bordered with black. Rump and upper tail-coverts dark cinnamon. Throat pale buff, each feather indistinctly margined with pale brown. Entire under parts grayish-olive-brown, each feather with a broad, central, buff streak, margined with black, some of these streaks on upper part of breast being a bright buff. Wings and tail dark cinnamon. Bill long and slender, dark brown, paler at the tip. Feet horn brown. Length, $8\frac{3}{4}$ in.; wing, $3\frac{3}{4}$ in.; tail, $3\frac{2}{3}$ in.; bill, $1\frac{1}{4}$ in. Specimen described No. 48,149, collection American Museum of Natural History ex Para (Natterer).

In my key of the species *D. spixi* will have to be removed from the position given it and placed after *D. guttatoides* as "C. Bill long, slender, longer than head. Throat and stripes on breast buff."

D. elegans Pelz. is a very distinct species, and well characterized by the description quoted from the Orn. Bras. Its position in the key is quite correct.—D. G. ELLIOT, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., New York City.*

The Purple Grackle at Charleston, South Carolina.—Mr. Wayne has at length taken true *Q. quiscula* near Charleston. The specimen, which he sends me for examination, is a female in high plumage. I cannot see that it differs at all from several of the females in my collection from the Middle States. It was shot by Mr. Wayne, Nov. 30, 1889, at Pinopolis, a few miles from the City proper.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Quiscalus quiscula æneus Killing and Catching Goldfish.—During the past summer, while noting the condition of my goldfish pond I frequently found many bodies of these fishes floating, bearing evidence of some sharp instrument having been used to effect their death: deep incisions, holes, and grooves in their heads and backs, etc. Carefully killing every Kingfisher and all the Herons, Bitterns being wholly absent, I became very much puzzled at the constant loss of life among these pretty fish of which

I have, I presume, some 3000 individuals in the pond. I first observed this evidence of destruction early in May last, and it was not until late in July that I detected the cause of it.

Large flocks of *Quiscalus q. æneus* make their home annually from early spring till late every fall, in the pine, spruce and hemlock groves which belong to my grounds; as I do not raise cereals, and devote my land to fruit culture, I regard these birds as the most valuable of their kind to me, and never have permitted them to be shot at or disturbed on my premises. Going down to my pond, as usual, in quest of Kingfishers, I happened to take notice of a Crow Blackbird in the act of striking quickly with its bill into the water at the edge of the bank. Wondering what it found there for food, I cautiously approached, sneaking behind the shelter of an evergreen and bed of flowering shrubs. This bird had struck a small goldfish as it came up to the water's edge—struck it in the centre of its head with the sharp point of its bill. This blow only stunned the fish, but rendered it unable to dart away, although it could still squirm and wriggle; the Blackbird was earnestly trying to land its prey by repeatedly striking the fish so as to get a beak hold, which it finally did after many failures. Catching sight of me, it at once flew away, leaving the writhing and mortally wounded victim upon the earth. The mystery of that peculiar destruction of my goldfish was thus solved.

The habit of goldfish whereby they suck and bore at and into the grassy and mossy edges of a pond as they feed, renders them a comparatively shining mark for *Quiscalus*.—HENRY W. ELLIOTT, near Cleveland, Ohio.

The Evening Grosbeak at Montreal.—Mr. William Brewster in a note to 'Forest and Stream,' Feb. 6, 1890, records the occurrence of the Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertina*) in eastern New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and Dr. A. K. Fisher of Washington, D. C., also Mr. J. Alden Loring of Oswego, N. Y., and Mr. J. L. Davison of Lockport, N. Y., records its occurrence in New York State, between the dates of Dec. 14, 1889, and Feb. 1, 1890. My attention was drawn to its occurrence here by Mr. Caulfield, taxidermist, one having been shot in this city by Mr. John H. R. Molson's gardener in the last week in January, 1890, and four at Laprairie, on the south side of the St. Lawrence River about nine miles above Montreal, on Feb. 5. I saw two of these birds after they were stuffed. I believe this is the first record of their occurrence in this district.—ERNEST D. WINTLE, Montreal, Canada.

Coccothraustes vespertina in Erie County, N. Y.—On the 15th of April, 1887, Mr. B. W. Fenton of Buffalo shot a pair (male and female) of Evening Grosbeaks at Brant, Erie County, N. Y., and brought the male's head to the late Charles Linden for identification. This observation was published by Prof. Linden in the 'Forest and Stream,' Vol. XXVIII, 1887, p. 367. This is, I believe, the first record from New York State which is backed by a specimen: the above-mentioned head is now in the collection of Mr. A. H. Alberger of Buffalo, and places the record beyond cavil.